

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 878

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Guilford Dudley, Jr. of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Guilford Dudley, Jr., a prominent citizen of Nashville and the State of Tennessee, who built an outstanding record in business and government and on the international stage as Ambassador to Denmark; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley, Jr. was born in 1907 the son of Guilford Dudley, Sr., a founder of Life and Casualty Insurance Company, and Ann Dallas Dudley, a leader in the fight to win women's suffrage in Tennessee; Ann Dudley was one of 19 women inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Guilford, Jr. grew up at Hunter's Hill, a mansion built by his father on a 500-acre estate at the intersection of Hillsboro Road and Harding Place in Nashville; he graduated from Vanderbilt in 1929 and then joined Life and Casualty as an insurance agent; and

WHEREAS, the Depression notwithstanding, Mr. Dudley set a record of one million dollars in insurance sold during his first year; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley went on to work in almost every position in the insurance field, and, in 1935, he was promoted to the home office as Agency Secretary; in 1937, he became Vice President of Life and Casualty Insurance; and

WHEREAS, World War II interrupted Mr. Dudley's professional career as it did so many Americans; in 1942, at age 35, he left Life and Casualty to serve in the U.S. Naval Air Corps; when he left military service in 1945 as a Lieutenant Commander, he had received a citation from Admiral William F. Halsey and a Presidential Unit Citation for his service aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, following his return to Life and Casualty, Guilford Dudley was named to the Board of Directors in 1946, and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 1951; he became President of Life and Casualty in 1952, serving in that capacity until 1969, when he was appointed Ambassador to Denmark by President Nixon; and

WHEREAS, in October 1971, Denmark awarded Ambassador Dudley the Grand Cross of Dannebrog for his meritorious service to that nation and, in November, the Dudleys returned to Nashville; Mr. Dudley became Board Chairman of Life and Casualty in January 1972; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley was again called upon by his country in November 1977, when he was appointed by President Carter to serve on a task force investigating the Panama Canal treaties; in November 1980, President-elect Reagan appointed him an advisor to the transition team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dudley was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; he was among the first in the Nashville business community to speak in favor of the fair employment ordinances proposed by the Metro Human Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Guilford Dudley authored *The Skyline is a Promise*, a book he called "a chief executive's blueprint for personal success"; in a more physical way, he will be remembered as the person who was responsible for the 495 foot high, 31 floor L&C Tower, a building that dominated Nashville's skyline for many years after its erection in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dudley also served as president of WLAC television (now WTVF-Channel 5) and was part-owner of the WLAC radio stations; John Seigenthaler, Chairman Emeritus of *The Tennessean*, said of him, "Guilford was a very real force in creating what is modern Nashville. He was part of the leadership of the business community at a vital time when Nashville was moving from being a traditional Southern town to a modern, progressive community"; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley was very much at home in the social milieu of Nashville and Palm Beach, Florida, where he and his wife, Jane Anderson Dudley, had a winter home; Jane Dudley founded the Swan Ball in 1963 as a fund-raiser for the Cheekwood Arts Center and it remains Nashville's premier social event; and

WHEREAS, described by Henry Hooker as a "Renaissance man," Mr. Dudley excelled on the tennis court, the golf course, and as a horseman in the same manner that he had mastered the upper echelons of business; he was a rider, breeder and fox hunter who was a six-time winner of the Truxton Purse, one of the chief races at Nashville's Iroquois Steeplechase, and at one time his stables ranked seventh among the nation's money-winning steeplechase stables; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley was also a talented painter in oils and had several one-man shows in Nashville and Palm Beach; his subjects included his wife, Jane, and annual portraits of his daughter, Trevania; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dudley was a business innovator with a charismatic and colorful leadership style who made Life and Casualty Insurance into a multibillion-dollar national company; he had earned the respect and admiration of his peers and employees alike for his business acumen and management genius; and

WHEREAS, Guilford Dudley enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Jane Anderson Dudley and was the proud parent of Guilford Dudley III, Robert Lusk Dudley, and Trevania Dudley Henderson, wife of John Henderson; he will also be missed by his grandchildren, Christen Guilford Dudley, Natasha Dudley Busick, Robert L. S. Dudley, and

Guilford Cole Henderson; and great-grandchildren Jacquelyn Elizabeth Busick, Charles Christen Dudley, Emma Christine Dudley and Samuel David Dudley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dudley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; a brilliant business and community leader, courageous defender of his nation during wartime, and outstanding public servant and statesman, his death creates a void that will not be easily filled; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Guilford Dudley, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Dudley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.